MARVEL®

© William Heinemann Ltd 1990

19th Jan. 1991
No 85 50p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

ISSN 0954-9390
02
9 770954 939022

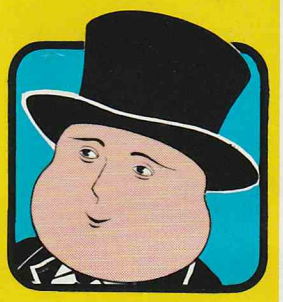
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! It was an exciting time on the Island of Sodor. Workmen had started to repair and lay a new section of the mainline. The engines were happy to have the workmen working on the mainline and often gave them a cheery whistle as they passed by! Percy was particularly pleased, as he was the engine chosen to bring the materials for the workmen to mend the track! However, Diesel was not so pleased and before long, made an awful nuisance of himself! You can find out how, when you read the story that begins just opposite! Peep! Peep!

HELLO THERE!

The Fat Controller would like to say a special hello to the following readers. . .

Eoin Baylan, aged 3, **Marc Broughton (15111), Christopher Andrew MacRae, John Griffiths (826), Lorna Ashcroft**, aged 4 and **John Cording (26933).**



If you would like to receive a special mention on this page, just send your details to the Fat Controller at the address shown on the letters page. Don't forget to include your membership number too!

In our next issue: James is sent to work in the yard!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

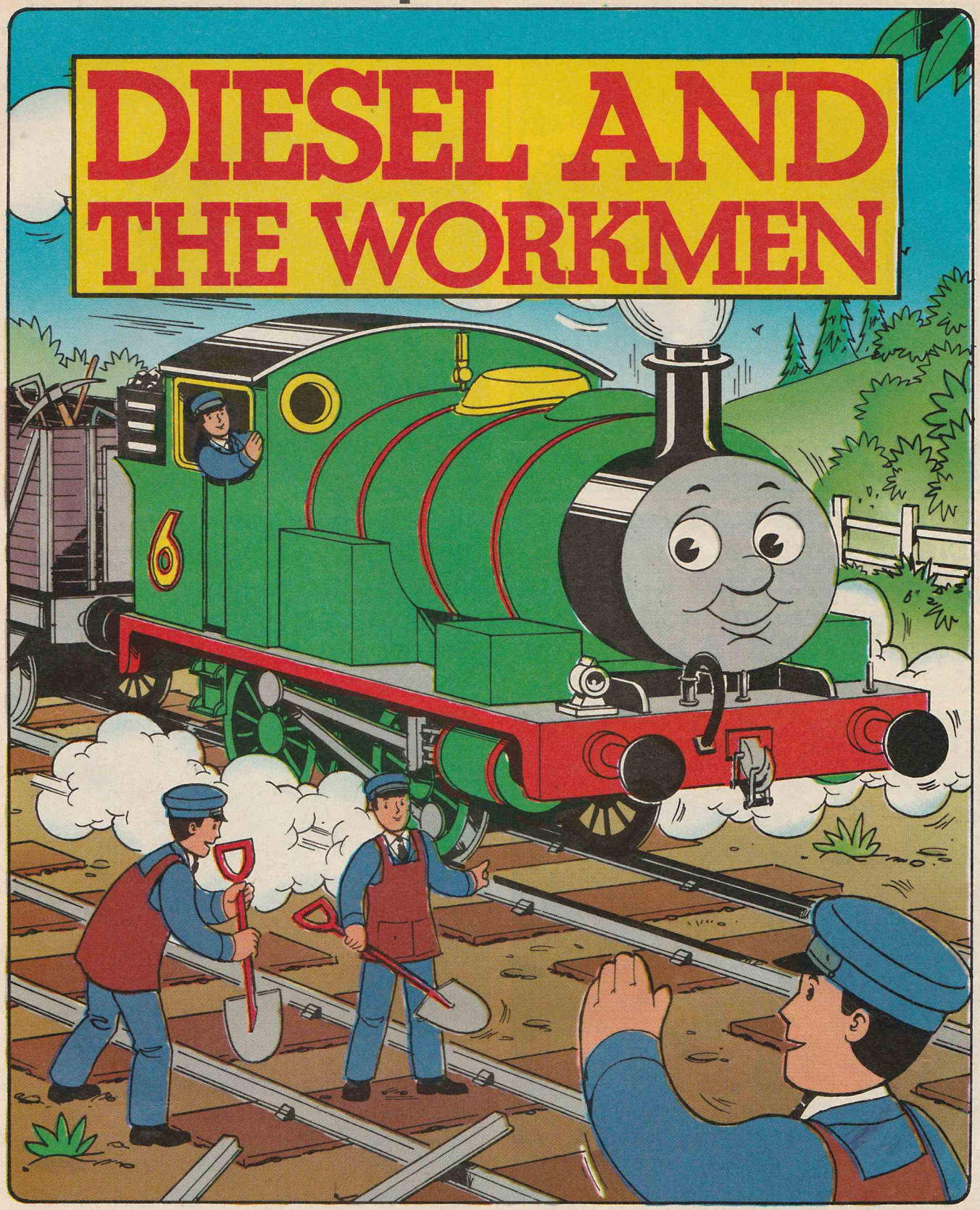
If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of this page! Send one **red, yellow** and **green** token together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

THOMAS TOKEN

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS LTD, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2. Copyright © William Heinemann Ltd 1990. All publishing rights William Heinemann Ltd. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann to Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd exclusively worldwide. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in England. Distributed by Comag.

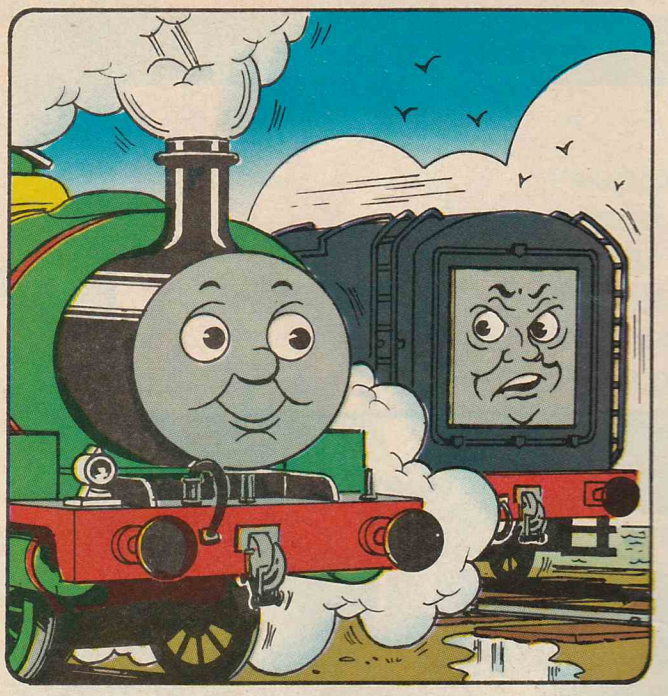
A listen and look story!

DIESEL AND THE WORKMEN

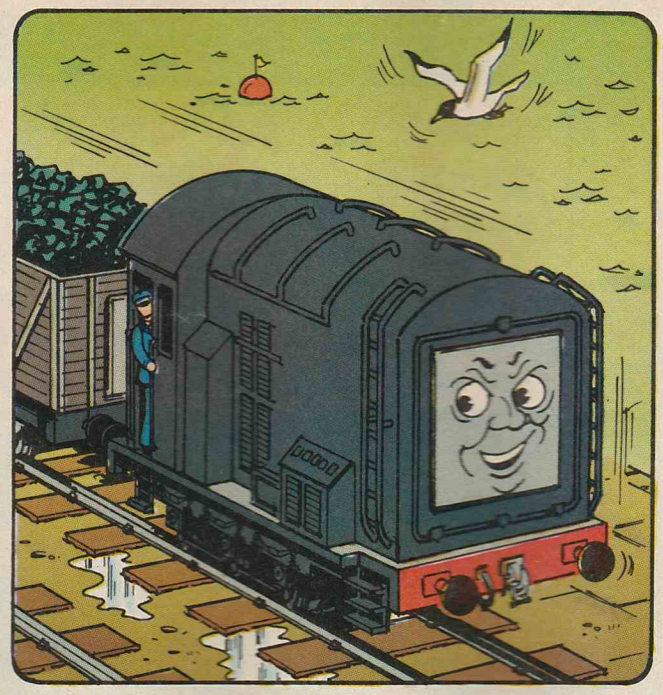


1. The main line on the Fat Controller's railway needed repair. Workmen had begun to dig up part of the line, so trains could only use one line to travel in both directions.

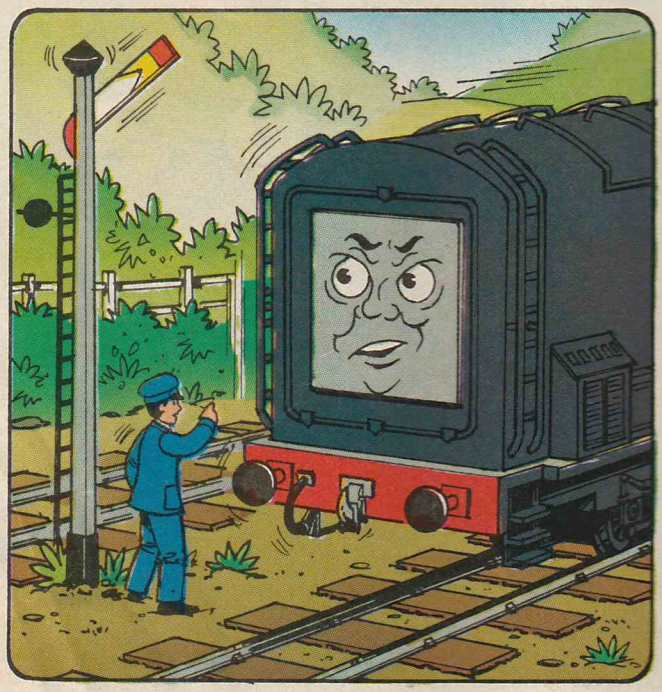
2. Percy was helping the workmen. "I bring all the materials to mend the track," Percy announced proudly. He was very pleased to be helping the workmen.



3. Back in the yard, Percy told Diesel what he was doing. "The Fat Controller is very pleased with my work," Percy boasted. "Well, it keeps you out of our way," hissed Diesel.

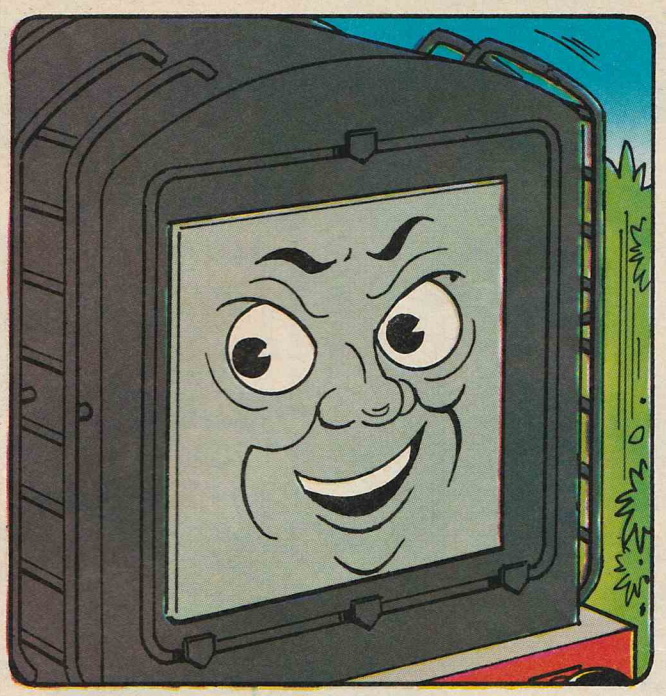


4. Percy was very cross. Diesel just laughed. "Come on you dirty trucks!" he hissed, setting out along the mainline. Before long he came to a 'stop' signal.

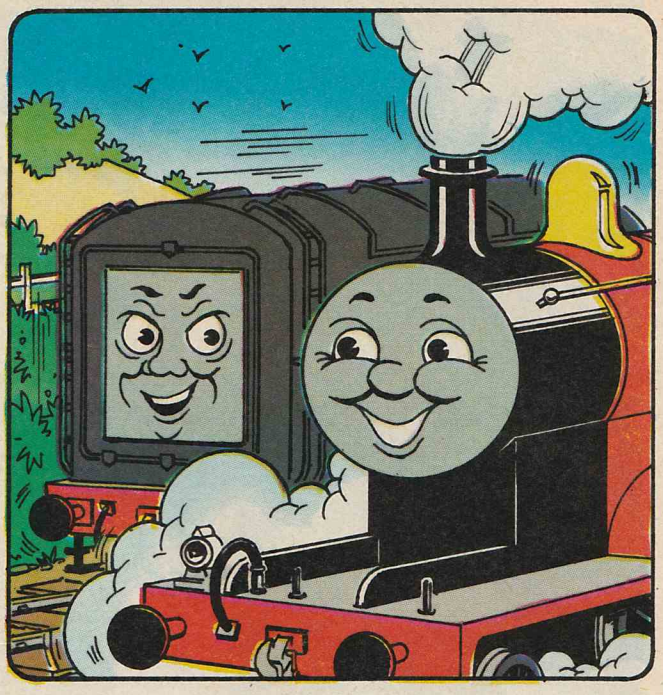


5. "What's all this?" asked Diesel. "I'm a busy engine, I can't wait!" "Sorry," said the signalman, "but you will have to wait. James is just coming along the line."

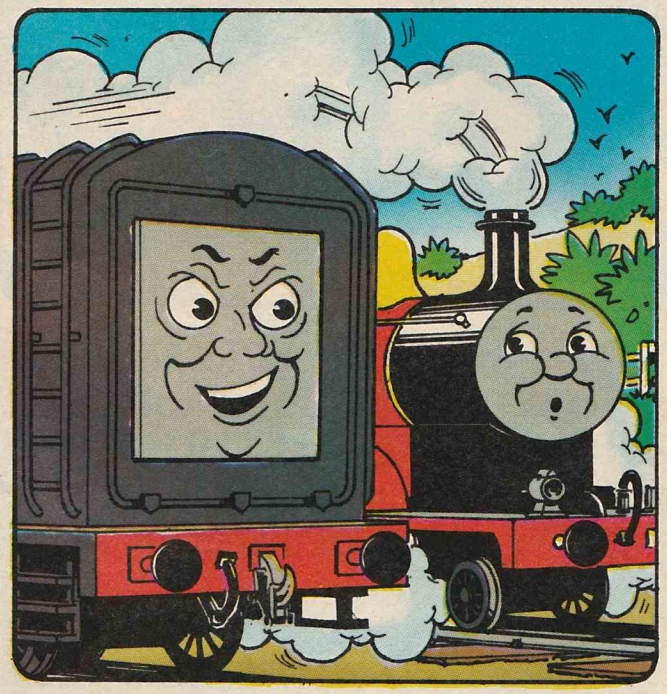
6. "Why do I have to wait?" grumbled Diesel. "There is repair work being carried out on the line," said the signalman, but Diesel didn't listen. Neither did his driver.



7. Diesel carried on along the line. "I've just seen Percy on the line, I don't see why I shouldn't use it too," he said. "Come along, you dirty old trucks!"

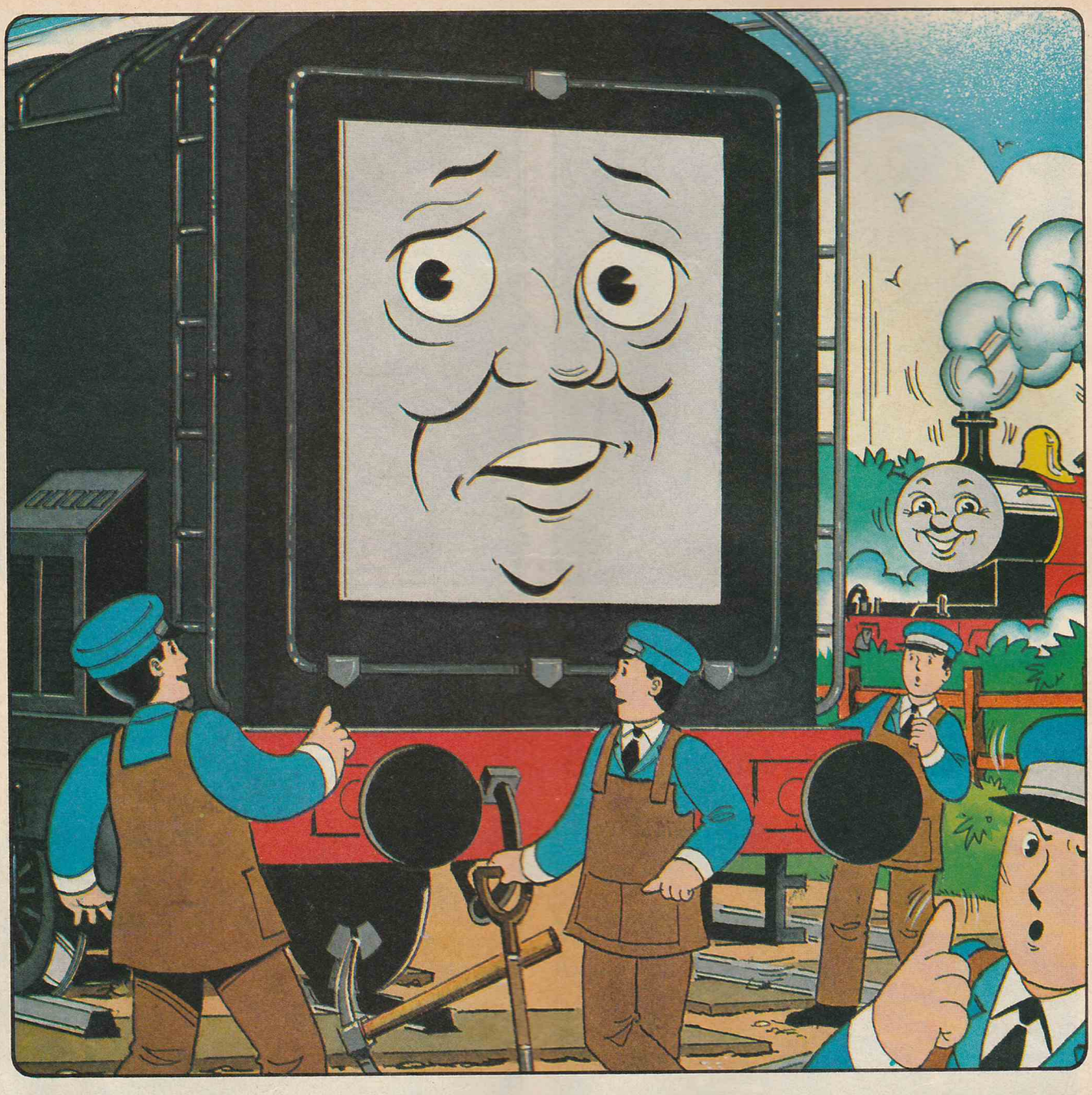


8. Soon, Diesel found himself on a temporary stretch of track which was connected to the line being repaired. "Where are you going?" whistled James as he passed.



9. "To the Main Station," laughed Diesel. "But there are men working ahead!" called James. Diesel kept on going. "All this fuss over a few workmen," he hissed.

10. The workmen were surprised to see Diesel coming along the temporary line. "Where's Percy?" called the foreman. "Stop! Stop!" cried the workmen to Diesel.



11. "Have they never seen a diesel engine before?" muttered Diesel. Then Diesel saw why the men were shouting at him. Just ahead, the rails came to an end! His driver put the brakes on hard. **Skree!** Diesel came to a stop just before the end of the rails. Diesel was very confused. "Where have all the rails gone?" he demanded.

12. "We're going to lay new ones," the foreman told him. "Oh," said Diesel. "I'll just wait here until you have them in place, then I'll carry on to the Main Station!" "You'll have a long wait," said the foreman. "We won't start laying new rails until next week! You will have to back up and use the other line like all the other sensible engines!"

THE END

There's another story on page 17!

COMPETITION WINNERS!

Here are the names of the lucky winners of our Ladybird Toys and Games colouring competition, that appeared in issue 78 of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends. Each of the readers listed below have won a splendid set of 3 Ladybird Activity Packs!

Thomas Canham from Suffolk; **Gemma Cooper**, *from Middlesex;* **Kayleigh Licence**, Essex; **Joseph Farish**, Cumbria; **Michael Stratford Johns**, Dorset; **Jason Rosehill**, Essex; **Benjamin Wales**, Kent; **James Evans**, Plymouth; **James parkinson**, Notts; **Mairead Bevan**, Ireland; **Emma Curtis**, Middlesex; **George Roberts**, Essex; **Simon Cummings**, Co. Durham; **Matthew McLay**, Berks; **Ashley Jarvis**, Doncaster; **Billy Cunningham**, Cumbria; **William Parrish**, Scotland; **Melanie Rose**, Wiltshire; **Thijs Bogers**, N. Wales; **Daniel Wallace**, Sheffield; **Francis McCartney**, Bucks; **Christopher Tunstall**, Hants; **Thomas Wood**, Middlesex; **Jamie Dyer**, Kent; **Martyn Normanton**, Bristol; **Sonia Inkpin**, Gateshead; **Claire Feek**, Norwich; **James Ferrari**, Macclesfield; **Esther Baldry**, Portsmouth; **Philip Bate**, Cheshire; **Katie Jones**, Lincs; **Jamie Pearson**, Suffolk; **David Race**, Cheshire; **Kasim Rajput**, Oldham; **Thomas Schofield**, Surrey; **Kyle Farquharson**, Yorkshire; **Christopher Coomer**, Essex; **Auberon Tatum**, W. Yorkshire; **Billy Davis**, Swansea and **Sean Parr**, Norfolk.

POSTER MAGAZINE OFFER!

Are you finding it difficult obtaining your copy of the **Thomas Poster Magazine** from your newsagents? Then look no further! Simply complete the coupon below and send it to us together with your remittance, and we will send you **Thomas's splendid Poster Magazine** within 28 days!

POSTER MAGAZINE OFFER!

Name.....

Address .....

.....

..... **Postcode** .....

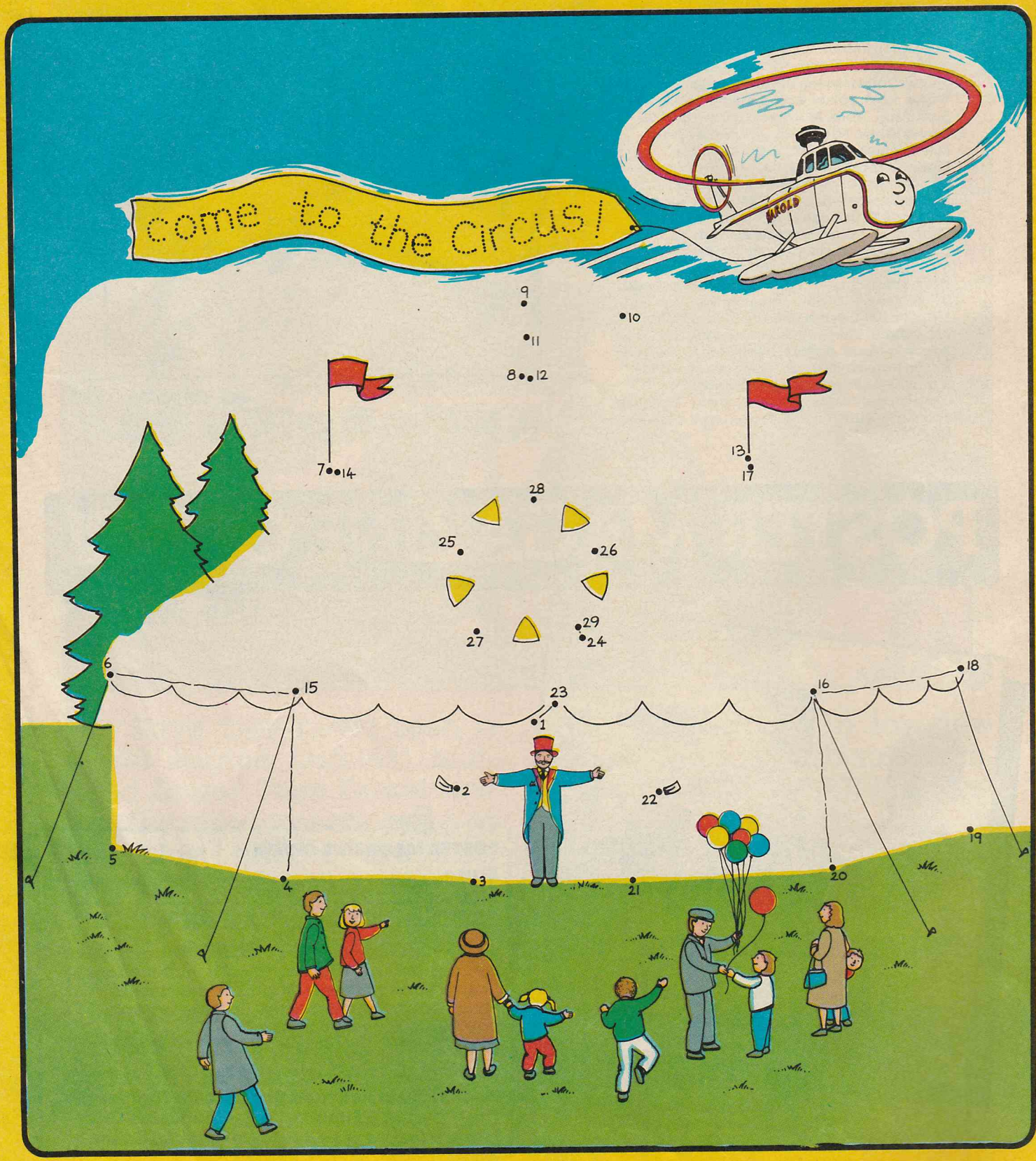
Please supply me with a copy of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Poster Magazine. I enclose a cheque/postal order for £1.50 (to include p&p) payable to *Marvel Comics Ltd.*

Signature ..... *Date* .....

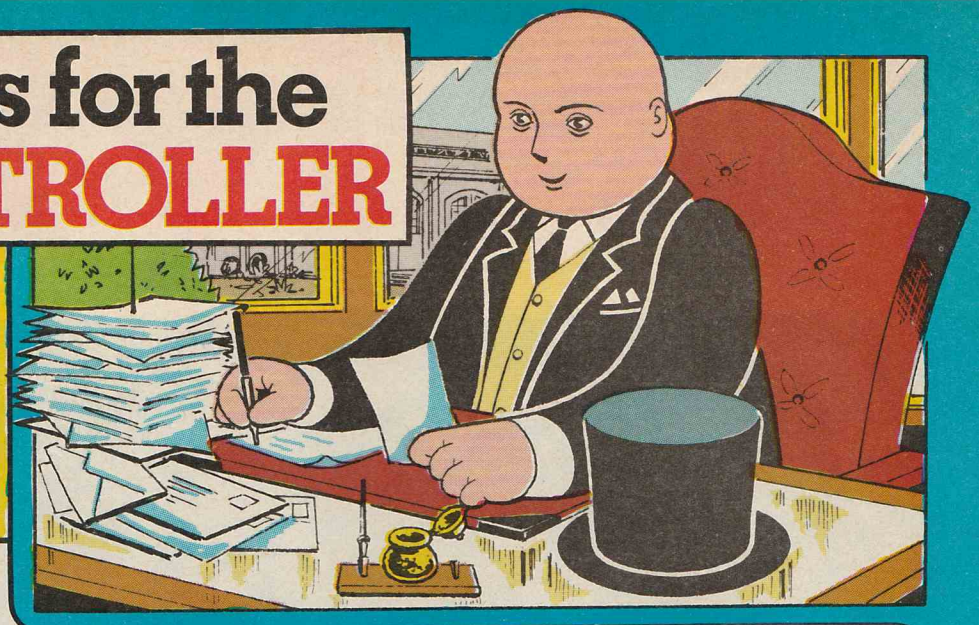
Please return form and payment to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Poster Magazine Offer, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

JOIN THE DOTS!

A crowd has gathered, but why can that be?
Join the dots to find out and see!



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My Lassie is only a little puppy, twelve weeks old. She looks forward to seeing me in the mornings with my **Thomas the Tank Engine** slippers on! If I'm not careful she would have them for breakfast and that would be very sad! I really love my **Thomas the Tank Engine** slippers!

Love from **William**, aged 2. (Written with a little help from his sister, Alison!)

Upon my soul! *Lassie sounds as if she is very playful indeed! I'm sure that when she gets a little older, then she'll not be so keen to chew your slippers!*

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank lunchbox and flask** – from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

PLAYFUL PETS!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have got a lovely dog called Missy and a rabbit called Fanny. When they are in the house, they always manage to knock over my Thomas train set. My rabbit often nibbles the carriages too, but I still like them!

Love from **Callum** (30322), aged 4.

Your two pets sound very cute indeed! Maybe you should try coaxing your rabbit away from nibbling your carriages by giving her a carrot to gnaw on instead?! I'm sure that she'd much prefer that anyhow!

BOB AND DAVE!

Dear Fat Controller,
How long have Bob and Dave the signalmen been working for you on the Island of Sodor?

From **Linda**, aged 5.

Now let me see... Bob and Dave have worked for me for more years than I can rightly remember! They are two very important members of staff and are very reliable indeed! They are also partial to drinking lots of tea too!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our best birthday wishes go out to the following readers. . .

Michael Robert Wood (25558), Nicholas Thomas, Robert Blythe, Robert Warlow (34280), Thomas Dudley, Gearoid Devitt (33723), Stewart Kelly (771), Duncan Bonney, Matthew Reading, John Griffiths (826), John Cording (26933), Michael Davy (17211), Timothy Kent (26070), Vincent Banks (29308), Daniel Richard Stevenson, Benjamin Guest, Marc Broughton (15111), Chris Ward (24052), Julia Pavey (8375), Paul Butcher, Douglas Tunnock and Alistair Turnball (30534).

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **nine weeks in advance**. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best!

Yours,

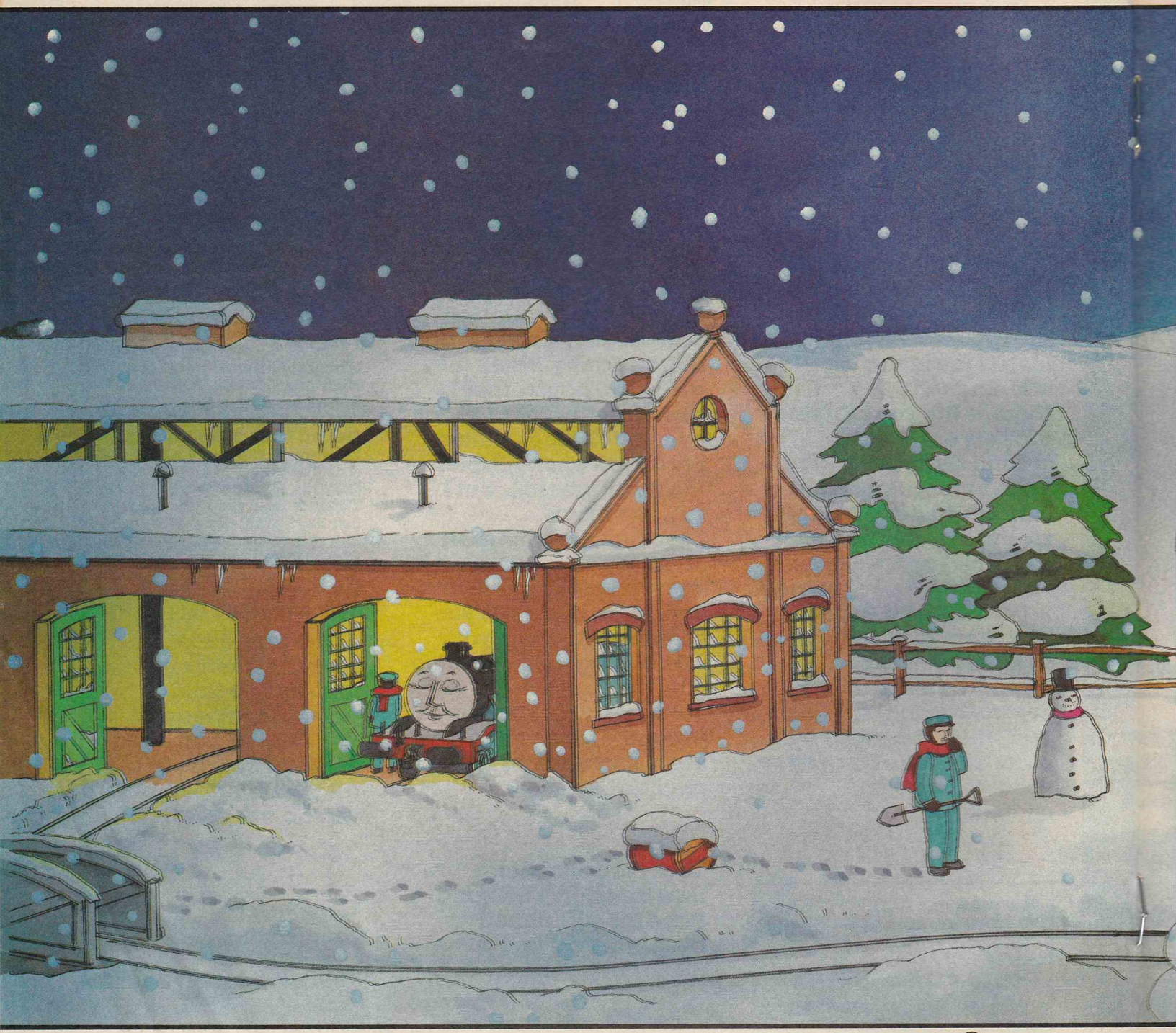
Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Early to wo



What time of the day do you think it is?

Which engine is outside in the yard?

Do you think he looks tired?

Point to the snowman!

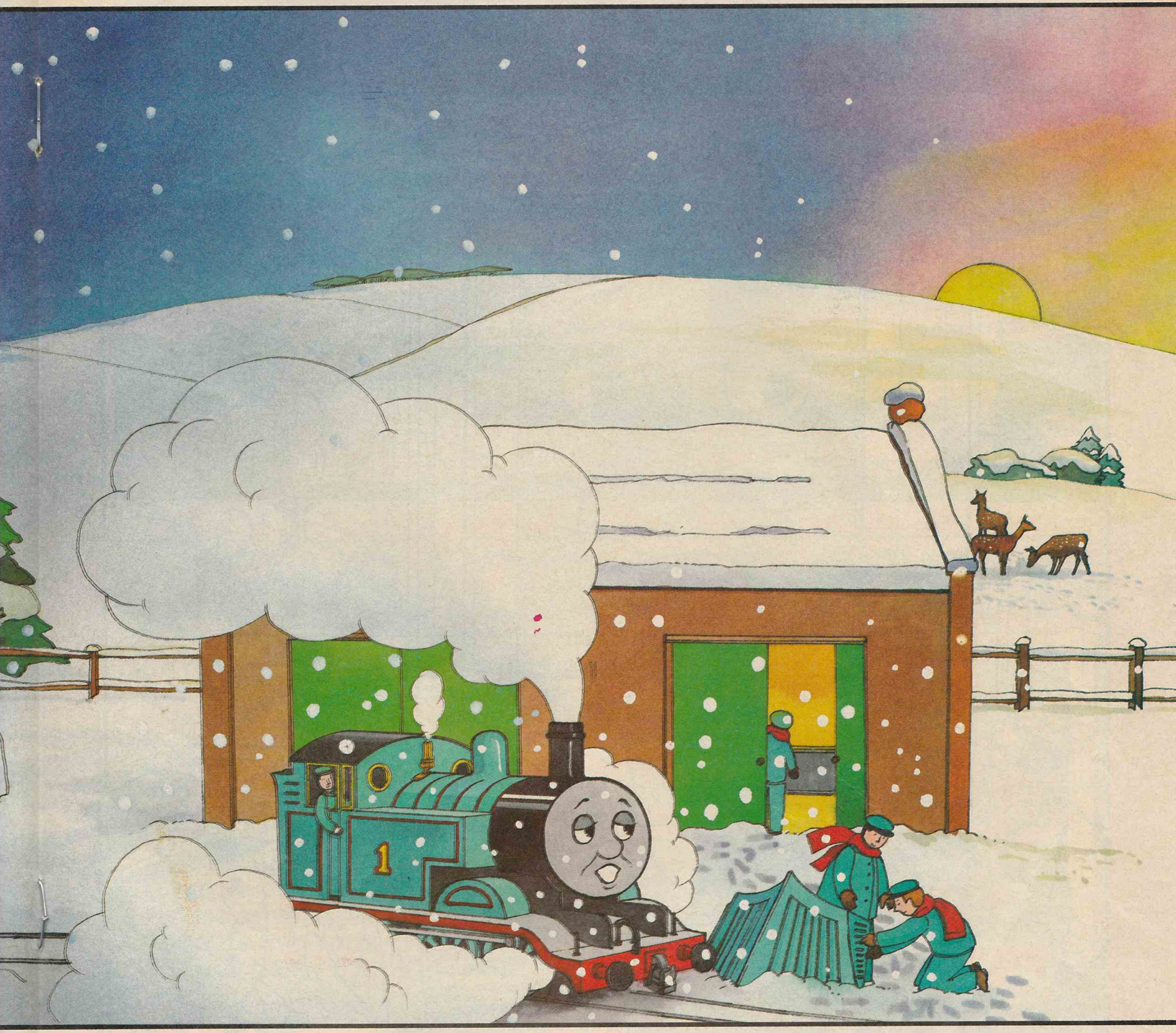
How many anima

What are they?

How many guard

Which engine is

ork!



nimals can you see?

ey?

uards can you see?

ne is still asleep in the shed?

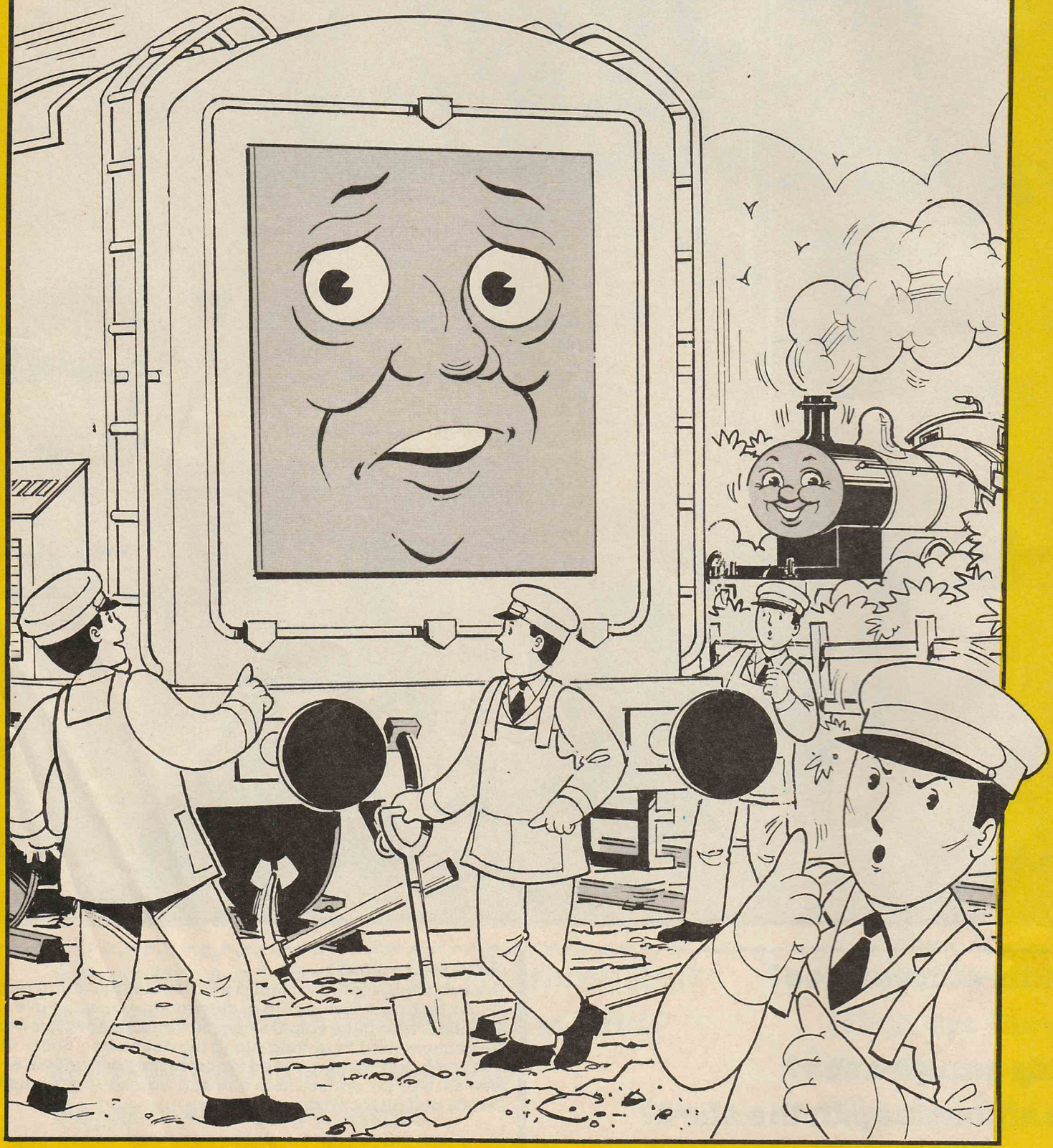
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Clearing the snow!

COLOURING TIME!

It looks as if Diesel has had quite a fright
Colour him in – but not too bright!



JAMES'S JAPES

Have you got a favourite joke? James would love to hear it. Send it to him at the address on the letters page!

What do you get if you cross a frog with a sweet?
A lollihop!
Mark, aged 6.

Which birds are religious?
Birds of prey!
Nicholas, aged 4.

What is the best diet for athletes?
Runner beans!
Simone, aged 5.

Why are robots never afraid?
Because they have nerves of steel!
Suzanne, aged 5.

What is over 300 feet high and wobbles?
The trifle tower!
Adam, aged 4.

What falls but never gets hurt?
Snow!
David, aged 4.

What's red, round and cheeky?
Tomato sauce!
Bernard, aged 5.

NEWSAGENT'S FORM

Do you often find that **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** is sold out at your local newsagents? Well, here's a way of making sure of your copy every fortnight – just fill in the form below and hand it to your newsagent! He will then order it regularly especially for you!

Dear Newsagent,
Please save/send me a copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight! Thank you!

Name .....

.....

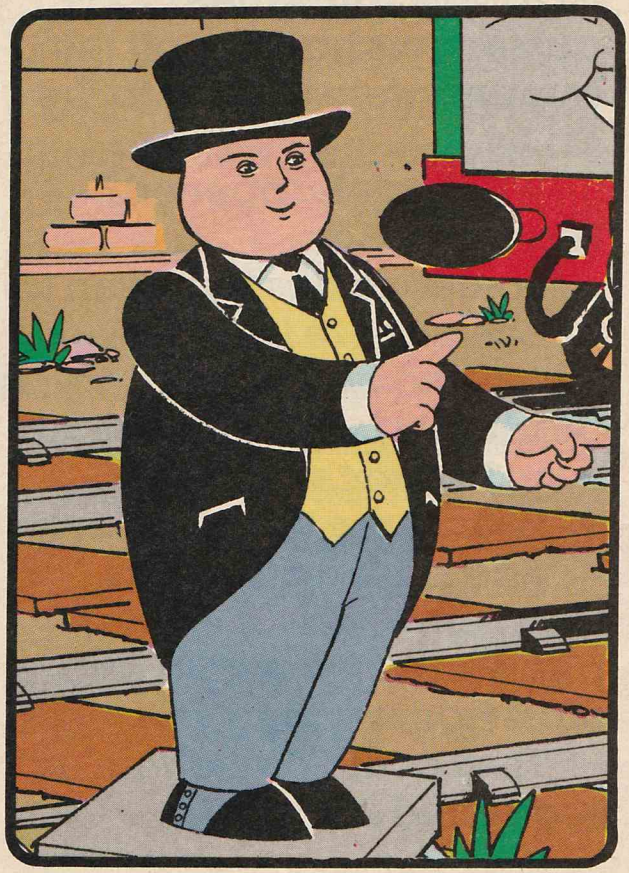
Address .....

.....

.....

Signature of parent or guardian .....

.....



A read aloud story!

Cold Freeze!

Winter had come quickly to the Island of Sodor. Suddenly, the weather had become very cold indeed. Everyone was taken by surprise. Percy was pulling two coaches along Edward's Branch Line. Percy had to stop at every little station along the line.

In the chilly afternoon Percy pulled into a station where the railway runs right up alongside the road. He was surprised to see Bertie the bus standing by the roadside. All Bertie's passengers had got off the bus and were talking to the driver.

"What has happened?" Percy asked his driver.

"Someone has forgotten to put anti-freeze in Bertie's water and now his radiator is gradually freezing. It might even be cracked!"

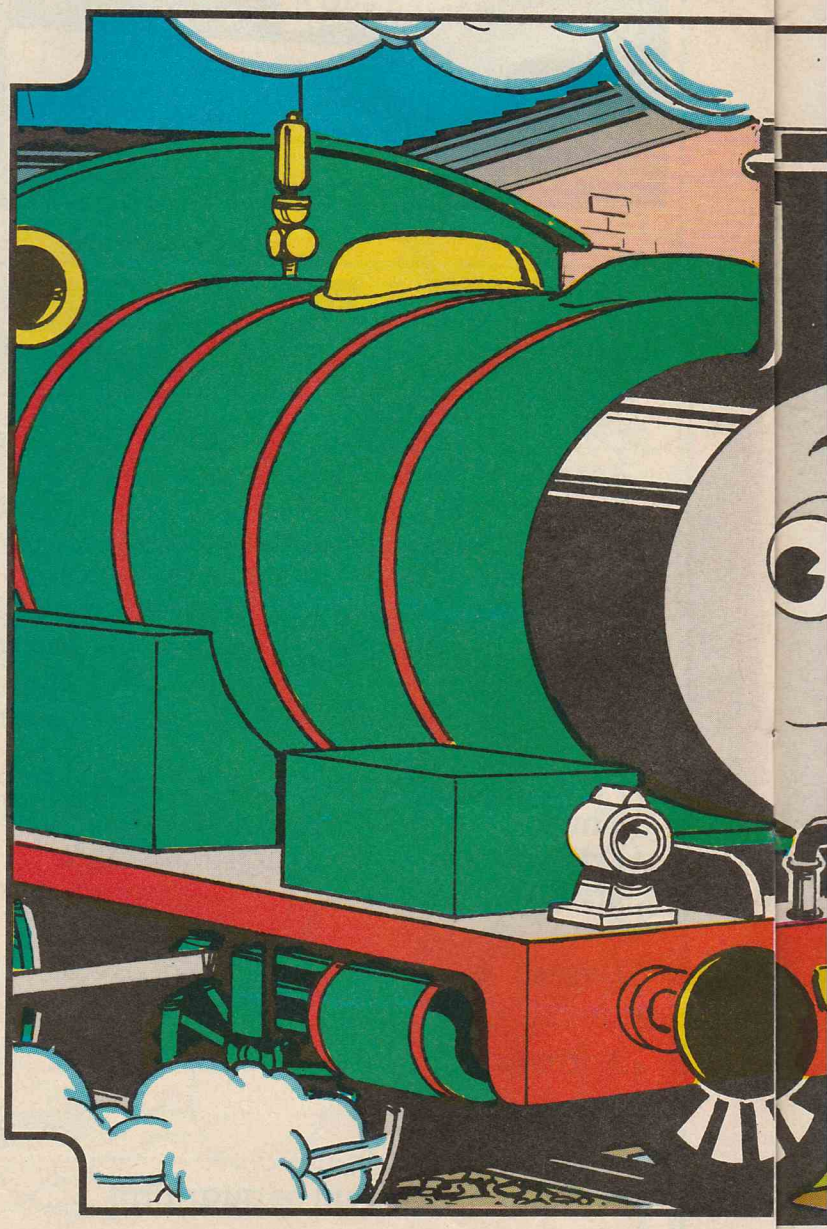
"Poor Bertie," replied Percy.

"And poor passengers," said Percy's driver. Bertie's passengers were cold and cross from waiting outside.

"They could come with us," suggested Percy.

"What a good idea," said his driver. "That would be splendid!"

Soon Bertie's passengers were filing through the ticket office onto the platform and were quickly inside Percy's warm



carriages. Percy was pleased he could help and pulled out of the station proudly.

"People can always rely on trains," Percy puffed. "Road travel is so unreliable. Those passengers will travel on the Fat Controller's railway in future."

"Railways can have their problems too," Percy's driver warned.

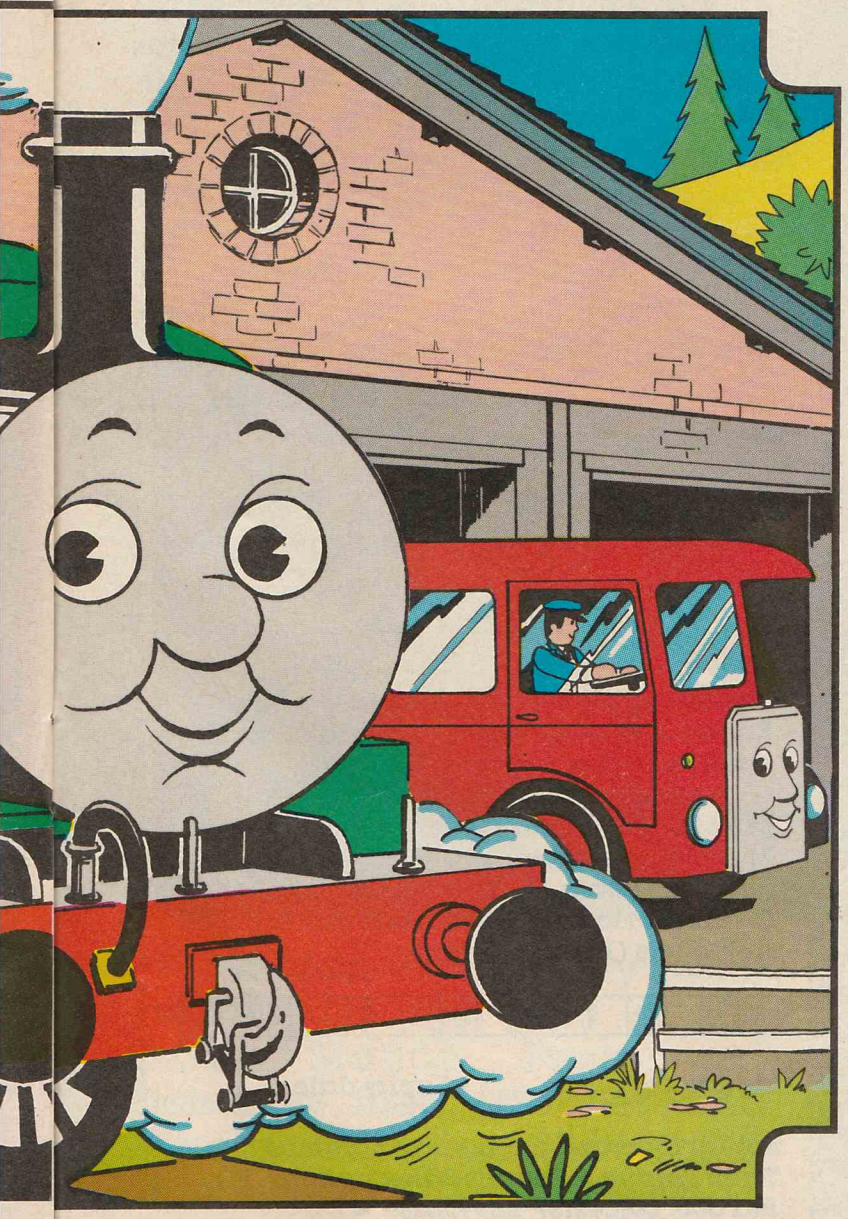
"Pah", said Percy, "engines don't have silly radiators to crack! Buses are so unreliable!"

Percy puffed proudly through the next three stations.

"It's time to fill you up with water," said Percy's driver. They went to the water tower. The fireman positioned the hose over Percy's tank, but nothing came out!

"What's the matter?" asked Percy.

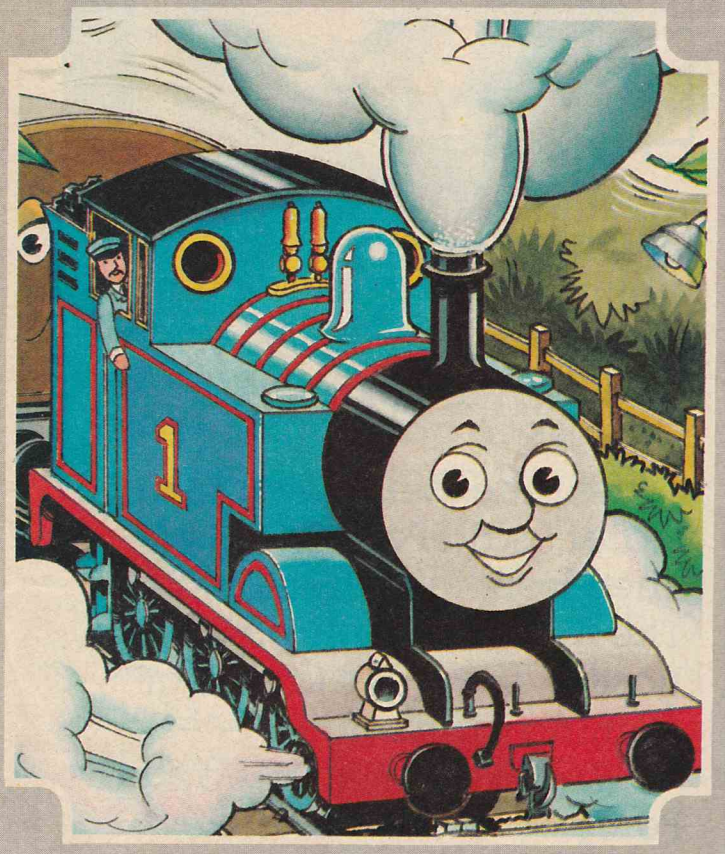
"The hose is frozen," explained the stationmaster. "You will have to fill up from the overflow tank with a bucket, but I'm afraid it will take a long time."

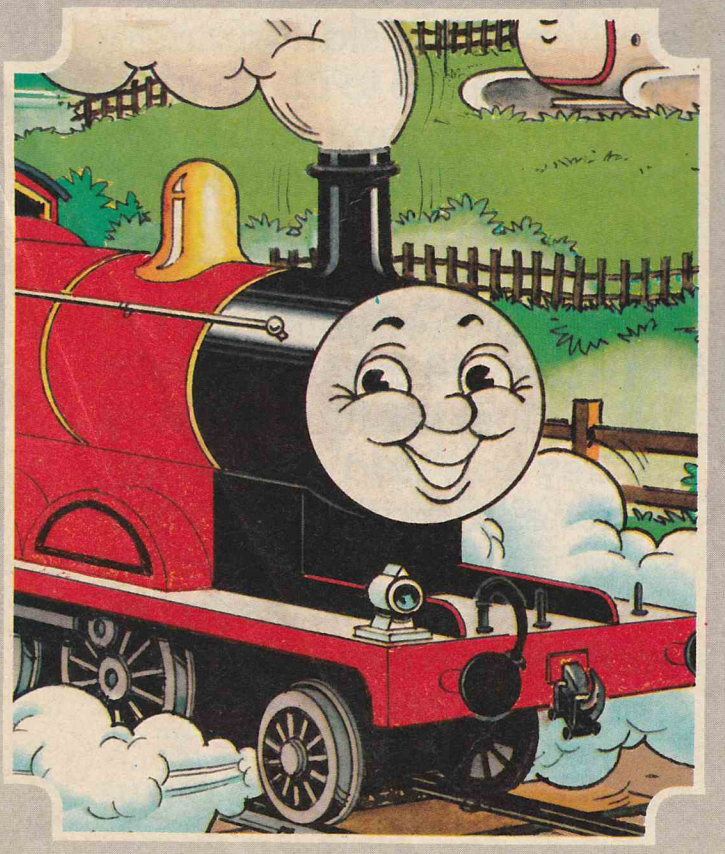


The passengers didn't seem to mind too much about the further delay, as they now had nice, warm coaches to wait in. But poor Percy was very disappointed with the delay. "Sometimes engines can be unreliable like buses," he sighed.

THE END

Subscribe...





. . .to your child's favourite fortnightly magazine. . .

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

It costs just £16.50 for your child to be sent every issue (**26** in all) of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine for a whole year! (Overseas subscribers £33.00.) Your child will also receive a splendid Thomas door hanger plus membership card with personal number, enabling him/her to enter special offers and competitions which are frequently open to Thomas Club members only!

ORDER FORM **S02**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

..... **Postcode** .....

Please supply me with **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for a year. I will allow 28 days for delivery.

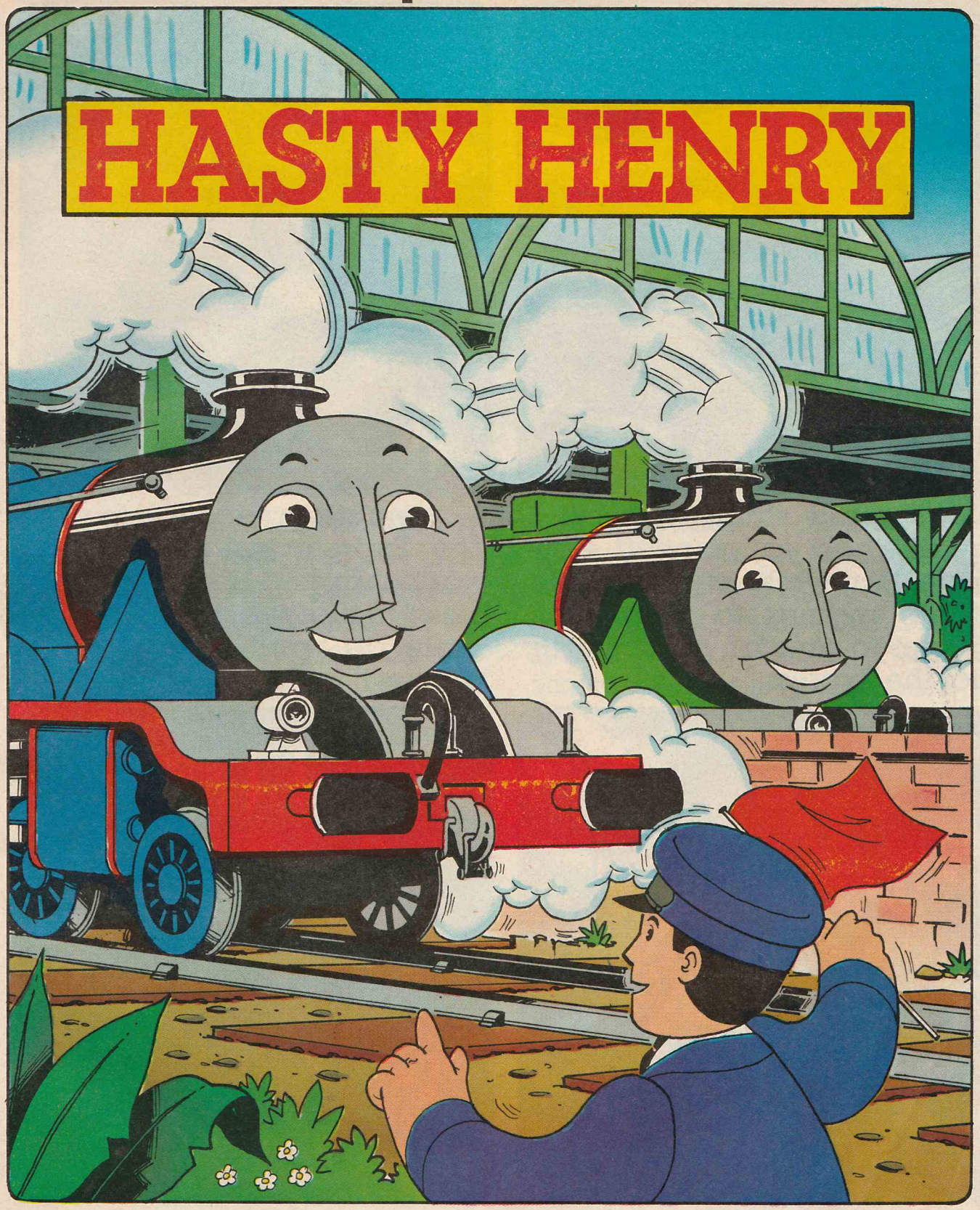
☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £16.50 (UK) or £33.00 (overseas) payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.

☐ Please charge £16.50 (UK) or £33.00 (overseas) to my Visa/MasterCard. My card number is (13 or 16 digits):

Signature ..... **Expiry date** .....

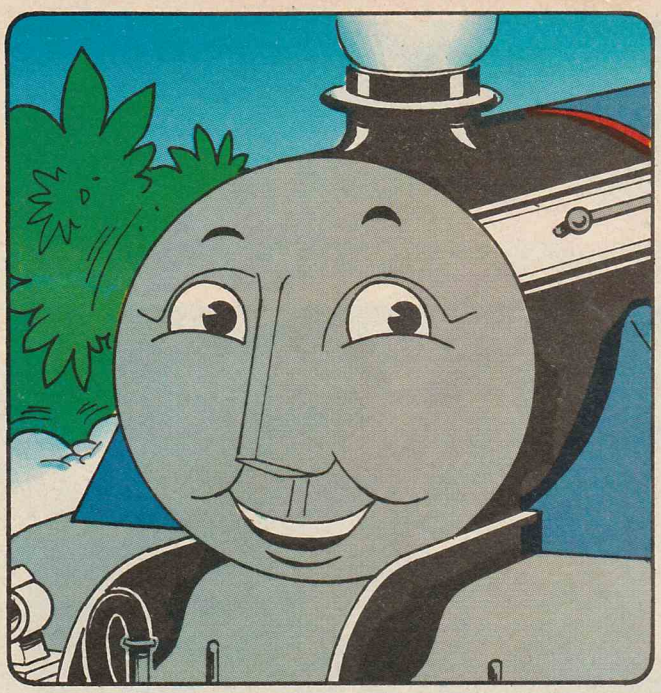
Return form and payment to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.*

A listen and look story!

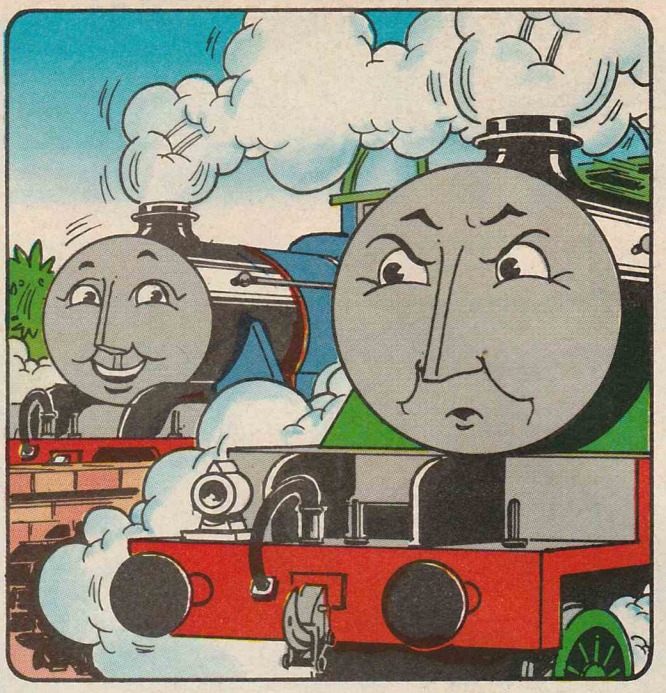


1. Gordon and Henry were waiting in the yard at the Main Station. Percy was fetching their coaches and trucks. "I'm glad that I'm a tender engine," said Gordon.

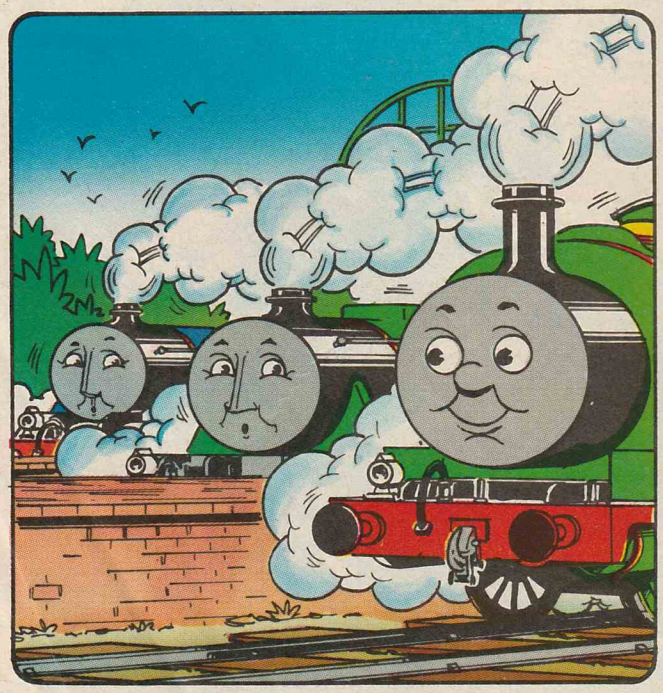
2. "Tender engines never have to go and collect their own coaches," said Gordon, proudly. "We are too big to be good shunters, anyway," agreed Henry.



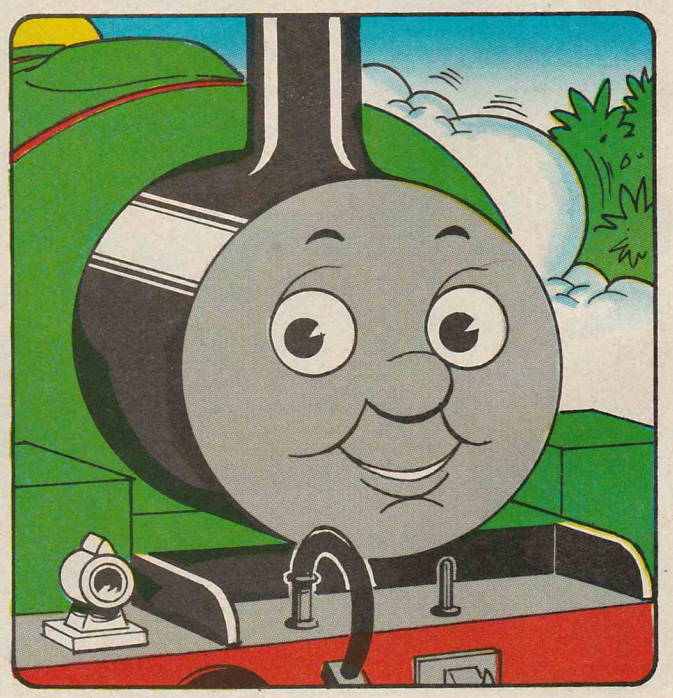
3. "I could shunt trucks if I really had to," snorted Gordon. "But while we have little tank engines to help us I prefer to save all my strength for the Express!"



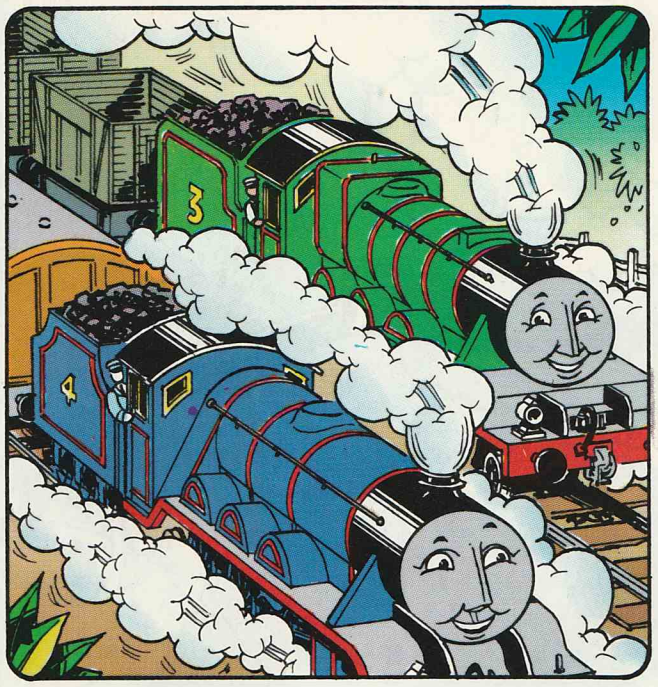
4. "I am strong enough to pull the Express just as well as you!" snapped Henry. "But you need to be even stronger to be able to pull the 'Flying Kipper'!"



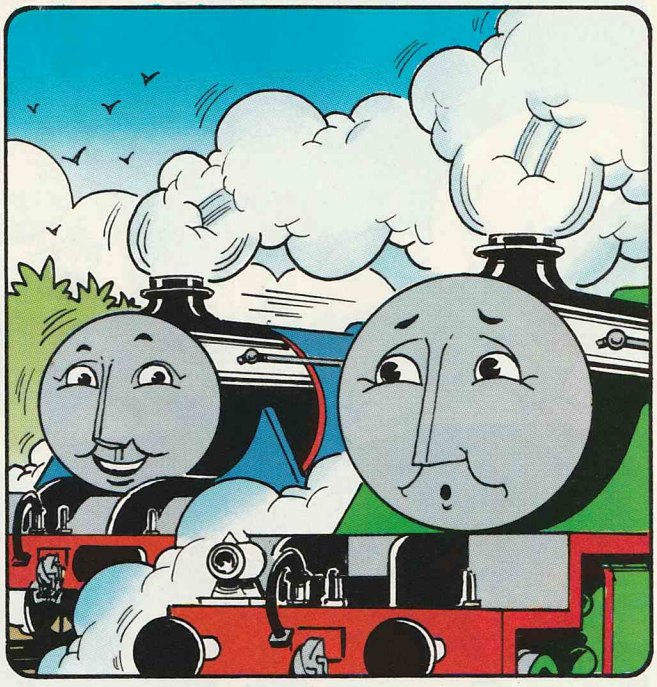
5. "Pip peep! Hurry up, you two!" called Percy. Gordon and Henry had been so busy arguing, they hadn't noticed that Percy had all their trucks and coaches ready!



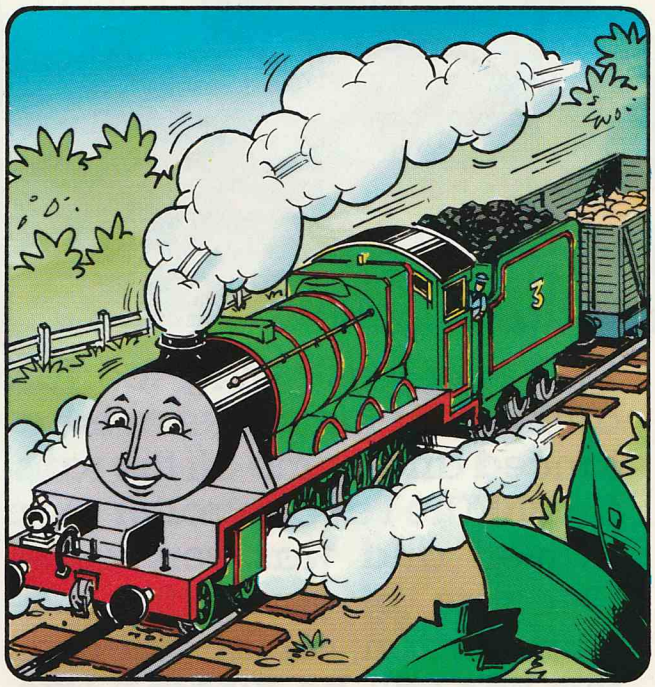
6. "For two important engines, you spend a lot of time squabbling!" laughed Percy. As Gordon backed up he puffed to Henry, "Why don't we see which of us is faster?"



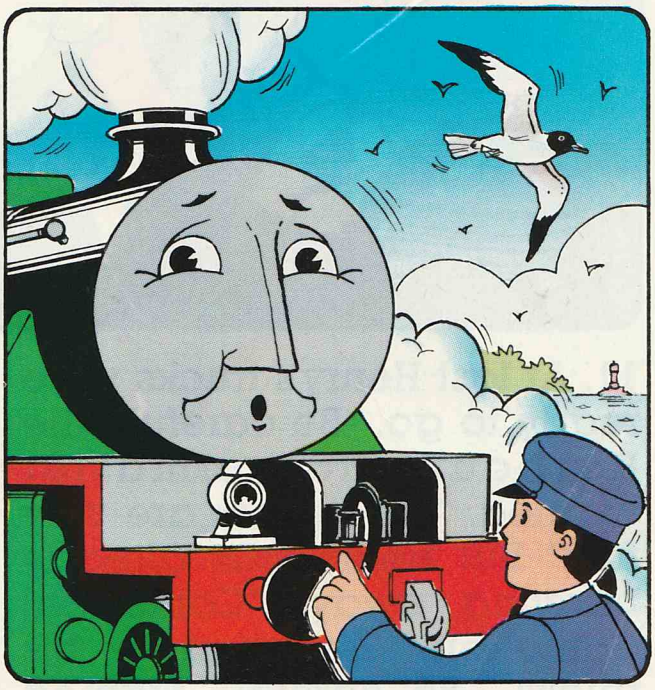
7. "What a good idea," agreed Henry. "I will be at the Harbour before you get to your first station and I'll be back with the 'Flying Kipper' before you know it!"



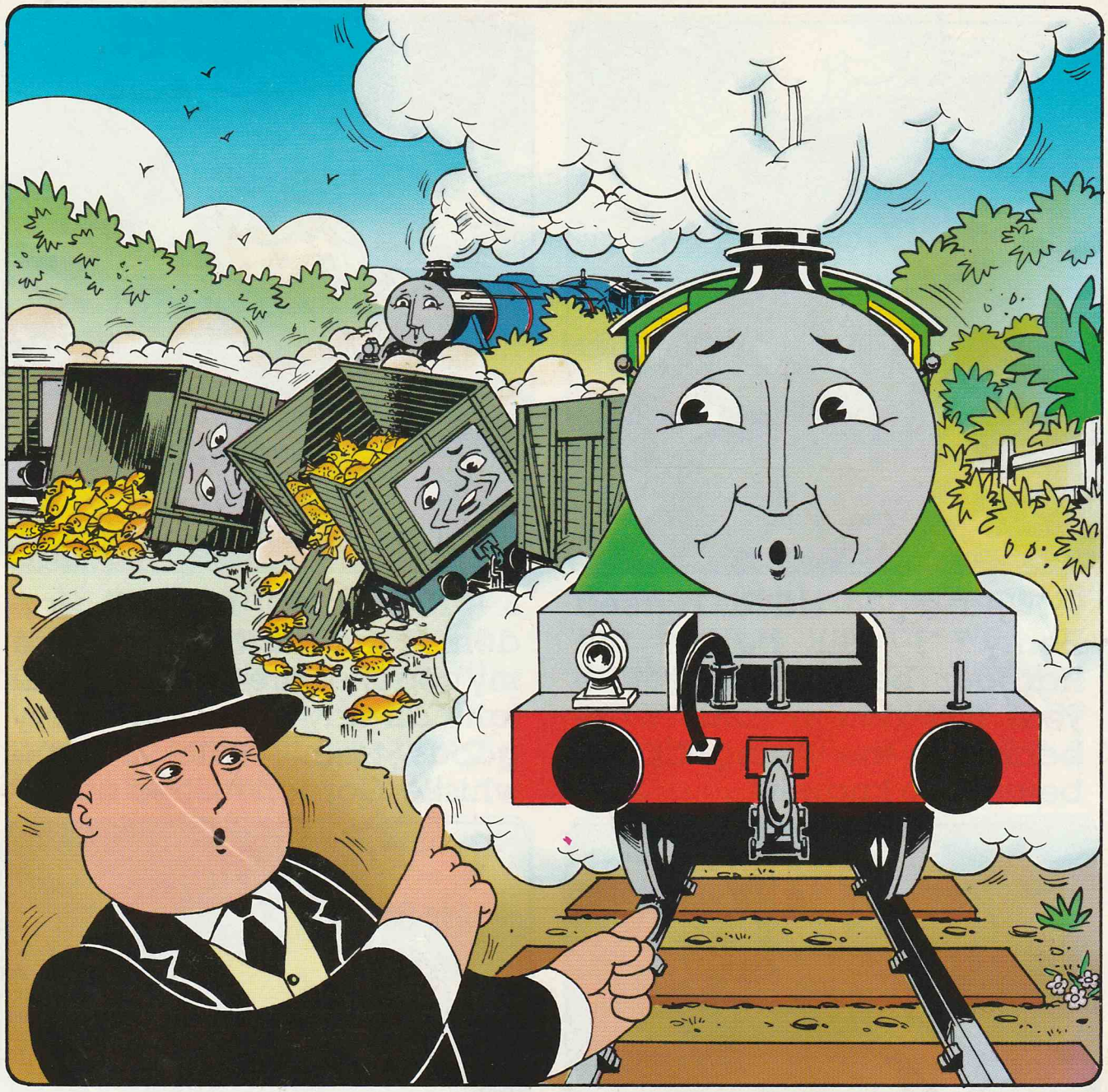
8. "Nonsense," replied Gordon. "I am full of steam and my coaches are light. You will take all day with your heavy goods train!" With a loud whistle, Gordon rushed on.



9. Shortly followed by Henry, who was making good time. "A little faster! A little faster!" he puffed. Meanwhile, Gordon had to stop at all the stations, which delayed him!



10. But when Henry reached the harbour, he too was delayed. "I'm sorry, Henry, but the boat carrying the fish hasn't arrived yet!" said the Harbour Stationmaster.



11. At last Henry's trucks were ready to go. "Be careful," the Harbour Stationmaster warned. "The trucks are very full!" But Henry was already hurrying away! "Come on! Come on!" he cried to his trucks. "Be careful," warned Henry's driver. "But we must beat Gordon," said Henry, as he hurried towards a very sharp bend in the track.

12. Henry was going too fast and two of his trucks overbalanced and came off the rails! **Crash!** The Fat Controller soon arrived and was very cross. "Because of your silly race with Gordon, all the trains on this line will be running late, Henry," he said. "I am most disappointed in you both!" Henry and Gordon felt very sad indeed!

THE END

More fun on the line in our next issue!